

# School Security Post 9/11

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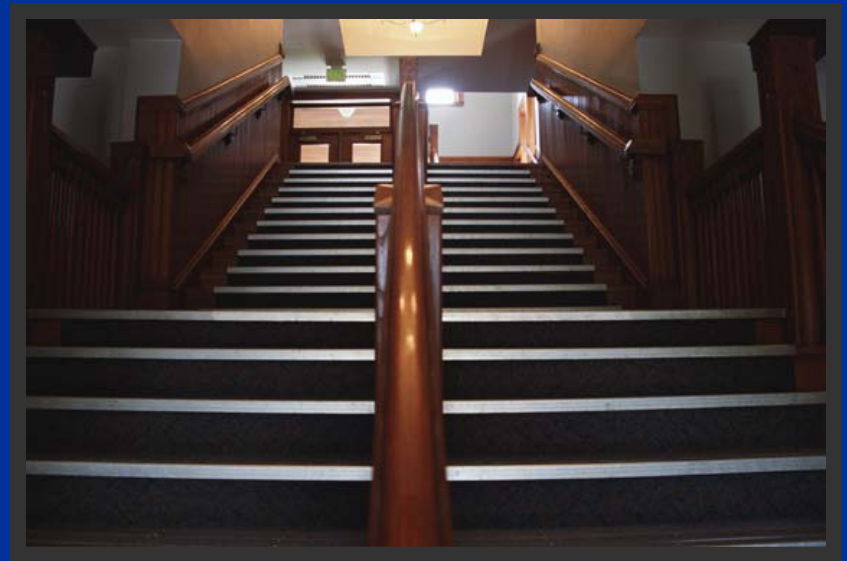
# CEFPI: What We Do

- Over 3,000 members
- Primary advocate for planning effective educational facilities
- Encourage construction of safe, healthy, high performance school buildings
- Three year contract with EPA to disseminate IAQ best practices for schools



# School Safety as an Issue

- Schools are generally very safe places, given the number of children
- 53 million children and 5 million adults in schools everyday
- Only 358 school associated deaths between 1992-1999
- 255 students died (ages 5-19); 37 suicides



# School Safety as an Issue

- **Between July 1998-  
June 1999**
  - 47 school associated deaths
  - 38 homicides
  - 6 suicides
  - 2 suspects killed by police
  - 1 unintentional death



# Columbine Tragedy Spurs Action

- 1999 incident resulted in death of 14 students and one teacher
  - Issue 1: Availability of guns
  - Issue 2: Lack of coordination between “first responders”
  - Issue 3: Lack of emergency planning by school districts
  - Issue 4: Are schools too big / impersonal?



# Immediate Response to Columbine

- Federal government issues *Early Warning/Timely Response* document
- School districts place new focus on emergency planning
- Project SERV: \$10 million for emergencies
- \$142 million Smaller Learning Communities program
- New spotlight on “bullying”





# September 11<sup>th</sup>: Schools at Ground Zero

- Seven schools in lower Manhattan were near ground zero on 9/11
- 6,000 students were at immediate risk; 3,000 children evacuated
- Some children exposed to dust / fumes during evacuation
- Early morning hour allowed many parents to reach children quickly



# Emergency Plans for Seven Schools

- New York state passed SAVE Act in July 2000
- All schools required to have emergency plans in place by July 2001





# Emergency Plans for Seven Schools

- Emergency plans at Ground Zero schools viewed as “forms to fill out”
  - Plans incomplete and not in usable form
  - Teachers not fully informed of emergency plans
  - Evacuations had organization problems; no regrouping locations



# Reopening Schools at Ground Zero

- Seven Schools re-located; reopened later
- Concerns about asbestos and IAQ in evacuated buildings
- Students at Stuyvesant HS returned to building very quickly (Oct) – some complaints on air quality
- Other schools demand more time for IAQ testing as a result
- Other students returned to original schools in 2002



# Ground Zero Schools: Lessons Learned

- Emergency plans do not work unless practiced
- Principals need “decision power” to evacuate
- Not all adults can be counted on to react to emergency



# Ground Zero Schools: Lessons Learned

- Schools should be equipped with emergency communication devices
- Emergency plans need to be usable action plans
- Schools need to prepare for different types of emergencies
- Parents need to be organized to respond to emergencies





# Sniper Case in Maryland / Virginia

- One year ago, two snipers put Metro Washington D.C. under siege
- Thirteen people attacked, including one student
- Many school in Montgomery County, MD in “lock down” for over two weeks
- Key lesson: schools must work with emergency officials





# Post 9/11: Resulting Actions

- U.S. Department of Education & OCED International Conference, Feb. 2002
- U.S. Dept. of Ed. Issues *Practical Information on Crisis Policy*
- U.S. Dept. of Ed sets aside \$30 million for emergency preparedness
- [www.ed.gov/emergencyplan](http://www.ed.gov/emergencyplan)



# Four-Part Strategy for Emergency Planning

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- Mitigation and Prevention
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery



# Plans Address Wide Range of Problems

- School shootings
- Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods or earthquakes
- Terrorists attacks in a community
- Response to terrorism has to be part of broader strategy to keep children safe



# Schools Can No Longer Go it Alone

- Cultural change needed to prepare for emergencies
- Schools need to work with new partners
- Forge partnerships before crisis, not during crisis



# Lessons Learned from 9/11

- Have a school safety plan
- Develop plan w/ input from public & private agencies
- Have strategy to overcome potential communications difficulties
- Have strategies to address short and long-term health needs
- Detailed procedures to provide accurate and timely information to students, faculty and parents
- Work with mental health services, teachers, parent groups to determine appropriate actions following a trauma





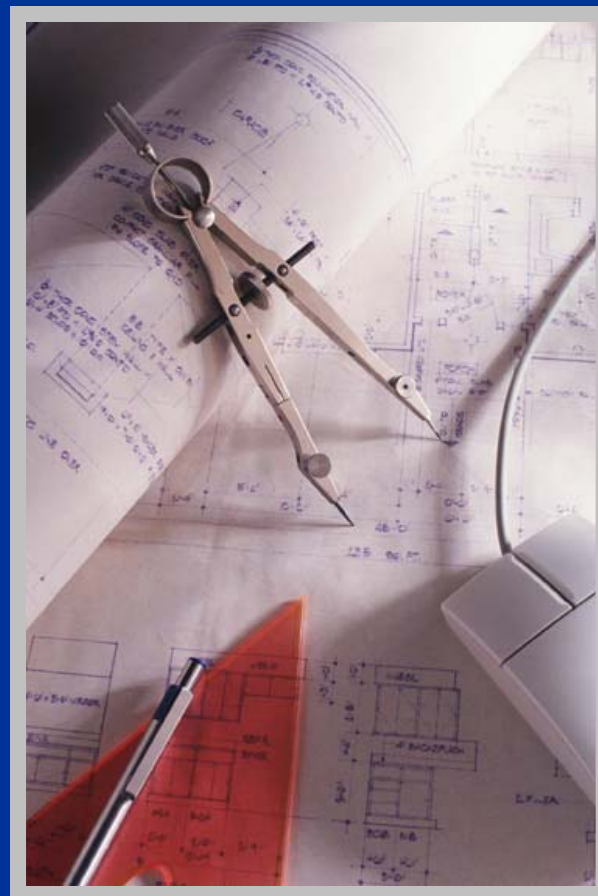
# Lessons Learned from 9/11

- Conduct practice drills on a regular basis
- Review plans and policies on a regular basis
- Initiate relationships with local health and mental health providers
- Include a process for screening volunteers
- Designate and train a person or groups to act as a leader in a crisis situation



# School Design Issues

- Site
- Building design
- Interior space
- Equipment, systems and location
- Environmental design factors



# Model School Districts

- Montgomery County, Maryland
- Fairfax County, Virginia
- Orange County, Florida (Disneyland)
- Palm Beach, Florida
- Charlotte-Mechenberg, North Carolina



# Is School Design Changing Following 9/11?

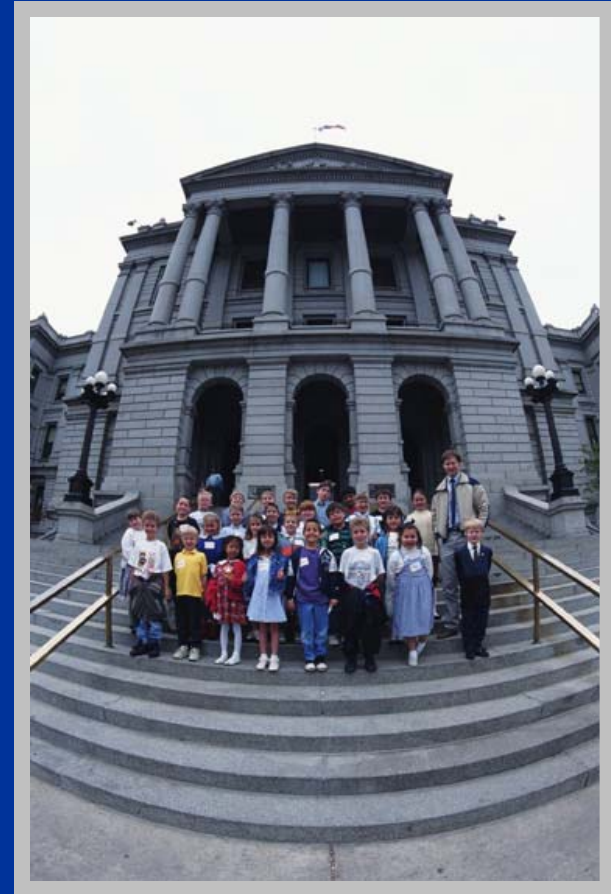
- Tragedy at Columbine put educators on alert
- 9/11 has not yet had a significant impact on school design
- Architects and facility planners focus more on IAQ, sunlight, sustainability and high performance and how facilities can effect achievement



# Conclusion

- *“ There are thousands of fires in schools every year, yet there is minimal damage to life and property because staff and students are prepared. This preparedness needs to be extended to all risks schools face.”*

Practical Information on  
Crisis Policy: A Guide for  
Schools and Communities





# Conclusion

*“The future of indoor air environments lies in our hands...”*



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